I Have said heretofore, in the Second Book, that Q is the only letter that goes outside the line, & the reason is that it is never written in a word with other letters, without having a V [U] following immediately after it, which it reaches out for and embraces as its usual companion & loyal friend. Q is, indeed, sometimes used alone as an abbreviation, with a point, & stands for Quintus. But in words written in full it must always have V for its mate, as in the words *Quis, Quia, Quando, Quidam, Quanquam,* and a hundred others. Likewise in French: 'Qui esse', 'Qui cest?' 'Cest Quentin.' 'Que veult il?' 'Il quiert la rue de Quiquempoit.' 'A quoy faire?' 'Pour y trouuer quelcun pour aller iouer aux Quilles.'

Q and C are almost alike in shape and in value, except that Q is wholly round as to the head, and C is open. There is so great affinity between them, says Priscian in his first book, that very often, in Latin words, Q is changed to C. Priscian's words are these. *De* Q, *quoque sufficienter tractatum est, quæ nisi eandem vim haberet quam* C, *nunquam in principijs Infinitorum vel Interrogatiuorum quorundam nominum posita per obliquos casus, in illam transiret: vt Quis, cuius, cui. Similiter a verbis* Q *habentibus in quibusdam Participijs in* C *transfertur; vt Sequor, secutus, Loquor locutus.** That is to say: 'We have treated sufficiently of this letter Q, which, if it had not the same force as C, would never be changed to C at the beginning of the oblique cases of some indefinite or interrogative nouns: as *Quis, cujus, cui.* In like manner, Q is changed to C in some participles of verbs in Q: as in *Sequor, secutus; Loquor, locutus.*' The ancients, to mark this great affinity between Q and C, very often wrote QVV for CV, and, conversely, CV for QVV, as Priscian witnesses in the place cited, when he says: QVV *ponebatur, et e contrario: vt Arquus, Coquus, Oquulus, pro Arcus, Cocus, et Oculus; Quum pro Cum; Quur pro Cur.*

* I, VIII, 48.

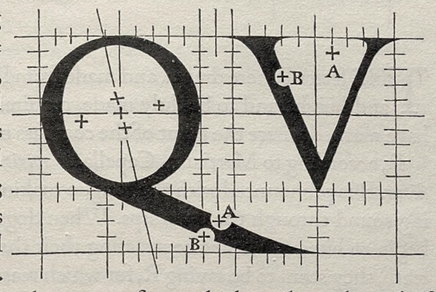
WE retain this affinity and change from Q to C, in our French language, saying: 'Quelque persone,' and 'quelconque persone'; 'Quelque vng,' and 'quelcung,' and formerly, 'Quelquum'; 'Au prim temps chante le Coquu,' and 'Au prim temps chante le Cocu.'

THE letter Q puts forth so much power in drawing the V in its train that, having so drawn it, it causes it to lose a great part of its sound, which thing is well marked in the pronunciation of the Italians, who pronounce V much better after G & Q than the French do, except those who have sojourned in Italy and who strive to imitate the Italians.

TO prove what I have said, that Q embraces V with its tail, I have made below a drawing wherein you can see that the upper end of the said tail is on a line with the lower end of the V, & marks covertly the space required between the letters when written in some sentence, verse, phrase, or word. The space that you see between the Q and the V is that which is commonly required between these letters, except in the printing of books. But this rule is not always observed; for sometimes this space is of the breadth of an I, sometimes of an F, sometimes of an E, and at other times greater or less, as the manner of writing & the subject and the place demand, and according to the writer's good judgement. But at all times and everywhere, mark well that every Attic letter must be written freely and with plenty of room, wherefore the matter that you would write must be written as briefly as possible; as they say in Greek, Λακωνισμος, and in Latin, *Breuiloquentia,* and in French, 'Breve sentence'; in which matter the Laconians of old in Greece had very great facility, because they were wont to comprise much meaning in few words, as can be seen in their Apophthegms,—that is, pithy sayings,—which Plutarch wrote down from memory. Of this *breuiloquentia* Erasmus speaks in his second Chiliad, Proverb XMLVIII.*

* *Adages,* II, I, 92.

HEre is the drawing of the two noble companions, Q and V, with the space required in the syllables of words wherein they are well written or to be written; & hereupon mark this also: Q is never the final letter in syllable or word.



FUrthermore, observe the centres from which to draw the tail of this present letter Q, which I have marked A and B, and note that the point of the compass must be placed on the A or the B within the V, and with each of those two letters the other leg of the compass must be placed on its fellow, to draw the circle. The other centres, not marked by letters, are used to make the head of the Q and the V, as you can see by experiment and practice.

And observe yet again that the letter Q is a Latin letter, made from the Greek letter *Omicron;* or, if you prefer, say that it is made from O,

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